

HOTLINE

Recorded Tuesday September 13, 2011

The following is a brief summary of emergency and permanent sport fishing regulations for the lower mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries.

Complete information contained in this hotline message can be found in the 2011/2012 Fishing in Washington pamphlet or on the department's web site @ <http://wdfw.wa.gov/>.

SALMON/STEELHEAD

Buoy 10 to the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line – Effective September 16 through the end of the year, up to two adult Chinook may be retained as part of the salmonid daily limit. From September 16-30, the daily limit will be 2 salmon or hatchery steelhead or one of each. Release all salmon other than Chinook and hatchery coho. Chinook minimum length 24 inches; coho minimum length 16 inches.

Beginning October 1, permanent rules will be in effect.

The mainstem Columbia River from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to a line projected from the Warrior Rock lighthouse through Red Buoy #4 to the orange marker atop the dolphin on the Washington shore - Effective September 16-18, up to two adult Chinook may be retained as part of the salmonid daily limit. The daily limit will be 6 fish. Up to 2 may be adult salmon or hatchery steelhead or one of each. Release all salmon other than Chinook and hatchery coho.

Chinook retention (for adults and jacks) will close again effective September 19 and reopen October 1 through the end of the year.

Mainstem Columbia from the Warrior Rock line upstream to McNary Dam - Through December, open for chinook, coho, and hatchery steelhead. Daily limit is 6 fish. Up to two may be adult salmon or hatchery steelhead or one of each. Wild coho must be released between the Warrior Rock lighthouse line and the Hood River Bridge. All other salmon must be released.

Entire Mainstem Columbia - Anglers may not possess in the field fish mutilated so that size, species or fin clip cannot be determined until the angler has reached their automobile or principle means of land transportation and has completed their daily angling.

Cowlitz River from boundary markers at mouth to 400 feet below Mayfield

Dam powerhouse - Up to six hatchery adult coho may be retained. The salmon daily limit is 6 fish of which only 2 may be adult chinook. Only hatchery chinook and hatchery coho may be retained.

Tilton River from mouth to West Fork – Until further notice, wild Chinook (adults and jacks) must be released. The salmon daily limit is 6 fish of which up to 2 may be hatchery adult Chinook. Release wild coho.

North Fork Lewis River from mouth to overhead powerlines below Merwin Dam – Until further notice, wild Chinook may be retained. The salmon daily limit is 6 adults of which only 2 may be adult Chinook. Any Chinook (adipose fin clipped or not) may be retained. Release all salmon other than Chinook and hatchery coho.

Under permanent regulations, Colvin Creek (located upstream from the salmon hatchery) upstream to Merwin Dam closes to all fishing October 1.

Wind and White Salmon rivers from mouth to Hwy. 14 Bridge - The daily limit follows the most liberal regulations of the adjacent mainstem Columbia or Wind and White Salmon Rivers when both the mainstem and tributary areas are open concurrently for salmon.

New Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement - All anglers 15 or older fishing for salmon or steelhead on the Columbia River or its tributaries must have an endorsement *in addition to their fishing license*. All other seasons and limits apply. The endorsement is good for the entire license year (through March 31), costs \$8.75, and can be purchased at a licensed dealer or online.

STURGEON

Mainstem Columbia and its tributaries from Buoy 10 upstream to the Wauna powerlines – Catch-and-release fishing is permitted through the end of the year.

Mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines upstream to Bonneville Dam (including all adjacent Washington tributaries) – White sturgeon must be released through October 7. Beginning October 8, white sturgeon may be retained Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays only. Catch-and-release fishing is permitted on non-retention days.

Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam (including all tributaries) - The retention of sturgeon in all three pools and tributaries is prohibited through the rest of the year. Catch-and-release fishing is permitted.

Thank you for calling the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Hotline.

